

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An emoticon input method in a mobile terminal, comprising the steps of:

creating, by a user, at least one emoticon formed by utilizing a plurality of typical characters and special characters in combination;

storing the at least one formed emoticon a plurality of emoticons in the mobile terminal; entering an emoticon input mode;

displaying the stored emoticons in an emoticon input mode;

selecting a created and stored an emoticon; and

storing as part of a short message the emoticon selected by a user.

2. (Original) The emoticon input method of claim 1, wherein the emoticons are stored in the form of a bit map.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) The emoticon input method of claim 1, further comprising the step of transmitting an SMS (Short Message Service) message including the stored emoticon.

5. (Original) The emoticon input method of claim 1, wherein the emoticons are stored by a manufacturer in the process of manufacturing.

6. (Currently Amended) The emoticon input method of claim 1, wherein the emoticons are created and stored by the user.

7. (Original) The emoticon input method of claim 1, wherein the emoticons are received from a base station and then stored in the mobile terminal.

8. (Original) The emoticon input method of claim 1, wherein the emoticons are downloaded into the mobile terminal from the Internet and stored in the mobile terminal.

9. (Original) The emoticon input method of claim 1, further comprising the step of changing and editing the emoticons by the user.

10. (Currently Amended) An emoticon input method in a mobile terminal, comprising the steps of:

creating a plurality of emoticons formed by utilizing a plurality of typical characters and special characters in combination;

~~grouping a plurality of emoticons formed by utilizing a plurality of typical characters and special characters in combination~~ and storing the emoticons by groups in the mobile terminal;

entering an emoticon input mode;

displaying the stored emoticon groups;

selecting an emoticon group;

displaying the emoticons of an emoticon group selected by a user; and

storing an emoticon as part of a short message selected by the user.

11. (Original) The emoticon input method of claim 10, wherein the emoticons are stored by a manufacturer in the process of manufacturing.

12. (Original) The emoticon input method of claim 10, wherein the emoticons are created and stored directly by the user.

13. (Original) The emoticon input method of any of claim 10, wherein the emoticons are received from a base station and stored in the mobile terminal.

14. (Original) The emoticon input method of claim 10, wherein the emoticons are downloaded into the mobile terminal from the Internet and stored in the mobile terminal.

15. (Original) The emoticon input method of claim 10, further comprising the step of changing and editing the emoticons by the user.

16. (Currently Amended) An emoticon input method in a mobile terminal, comprising the steps of:

forming emoticons by utilizing a plurality of typical characters;
storing a plurality of the emoticons;
displaying the plurality of stored emoticons;
selecting at least one formed and stored emoticon from the plurality of emoticons; and
transmitting an SMS message including the at least one emoticon selected by a user.

17. (Original) The emoticon input method of claim 16, wherein the emoticons are formed and stored by a manufacturer in the process of manufacturing.

18. (Original) The emoticon input method of claim 16, wherein the emoticons are formed and stored by the user.

19. (Original) The emoticon input method of claim 16, wherein the emoticons are received from a base station and stored in the mobile station.

20. (Original) The emoticon input method of claim 16, wherein the emoticons are downloaded into the mobile terminal from the Internet and stored in the mobile terminal.

21. (Original) The emoticon input method of claim 16, further comprising the step of changing and editing the emoticons by the user.

22. (New) An emoticon input method in a mobile terminal, comprising the steps of:
entering an emoticon input mode;
displaying a list of emoticons in the emoticon input mode, wherein the emoticons are
created by utilizing a plurality of typical characters and special characters in combination, and
stored in the mobile terminal;
selecting, by a user, an emoticon from the list; and
storing as part of a short message the emoticon which is selected by the user.

23. (New) The emoticon input method of claim 22, wherein the list of emoticons and the emoticons are stored in the form of a bit map.

24. (New) The emoticon input method of claim 22, further comprising the step of transmitting a Short Message Service (SMS) message including the stored emoticon.

25. (New) The emoticon input method of claim 22, wherein the list of emoticons and the emoticons are created and stored by the user.

26. (New) The emoticon input method of claim 22, wherein the list of emoticons and the emoticons are received from a base station and stored in the mobile terminal.

27. (New) The emoticon input method of claim 22, wherein the list of emoticons and the emoticons are downloaded into the mobile terminal from the Internet and stored in the mobile terminal.

28. (New) The emoticon input method of claim 22, further comprising the step of changing and editing the emoticons by the user.